REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6 and 8-17 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 4 has therefore been cancelled, and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claims 1 and 18. Claim 3 has been written in independent form. The dependency of the remaining claims has been modified as necessary. Additionally, redundant Claims 8, 10, 12 and 14 have been cancelled. All of the claims are therefore believed to be allowable.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Customer Number} \\ 22850 \end{array}$

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 08/03) Norman F. Oblon Attorney of Record Registration No. 24,618 Robert T. Pous Attorney of Record Registration No. 29,099

I:\RTP\199202.AM